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VII.

MISCELLANEOUS.

"BODYKE is a pleasant little village of a score or two houses and half a dozen shops, all in one wide street a couple of a hundred yards long, and it lies upon the slope of a picturesque green valley." So begins the thrilling story of a series of Irish evictions, originally published for the most part in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, of London, and other English journals, and collected in the little book before us.* Mr. Norman was the correspondent of the *Gazette*, and these articles as they appeared in print in England created a great deal of attention, and were the subject of a warm debate in the House of Commons. They tell a very pitiable tale in a matter of fact way which bears the impress of truth. They show the grasping character of some of the Irish landlords, increased in a measure by their pecuniary embarrassments, the elaborate and expensive machinery employed to oust the tenantry from their holdings, the violence necessary to accomplish this, and the sad condition and prospects of the Irish tenant farmer. It appears from a supplementary chapter that no fewer than 555,341 persons—men, women, and children—were evicted from their homes between 1849 and 1885. These evictions at Bodyke were twenty-eight in number, and besides the misery inflicted on many people and the list of persons maimed and otherwise injured in the process, they cost the British Government in the services of police and military, and in other ways, no less than five thousand pounds sterling—a sum sufficient to pay the rents demanded ten times over. And to this must be added the pauper relief to the homeless families, the loss of rents to the landlord, and, worse than all, the sowing of a large and promising crop of wrongs and outrages.

Of Longfellow and Hawthorne, of Whittier and Bryant, and other authors whose names are cherished as a part of the national life, Americans do not weary of hearing. And a biographical work having for its subject any of these must of necessity attract some measure of attention, and inspire a certain degree of interest by reason of its subject, whatever the manner of presentation. Following so soon the complete and carefully prepared life of Longfellow by his younger brother, another study of his life and works from the hand of a friend almost challenges comparison. It is difficult to imagine the *raison d'être* of Mr. Austin's book,† since nothing is added to what has already been written, unless we except a possibly fuller account of his ancestry (which the average reader is liable to skip altogether), while much of interest is omitted. The familiar incidents of Mr. Longfellow's uneventful life, the unfolding of his creative powers and the analysis of his not very subtle compositions, are again spread out to our view; and numerous quotations, many of them familiar as household words, fill out the pages. The author intends, as his preface explains, to present a popular biography, and, having condensed his work into a single volume, he will undoubtedly attract readers who may prefer the briefer view of the poet's life. Among several minor discrepancies, we notice that, in the chapter on "Evangeline," reference is made to the "temple" of the Acadian peasants. A somewhat ambitious word, as it seems to us, for the modest meeting place of these poor people. An admirable lithotype of Mr. Longfellow and fac-simile pages from the manuscripts of three of his poems add much to the interest of the work.

* "Questions of the Day" series. "Bodyke; a Chapter in the History of Irish Landlordism." By Henry Norman.—G. P. Putnam's Sons.

† "Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: His Life, His Works, His Friendships." By George Lowell Austin.—Lee & Shepard.

The study of the French language is now so nearly universal in polite society that a really effective method of teaching it is sure to command attention. We have before us a little book* designed for primary classes, which is in many respects the best we have ever seen for that purpose. M. J. D. Gaillard and his wife are both remarkably successful as instructors, and they have in this primer disclosed the secret of their success. The system is easily understood, and in practice it works admirably. Instead of the old parrot-like process of mere imitation and memorizing, the pupil finds here a series of tableaux or outline sketches of pleasant tales which he soon learns to fill up, and which indelibly stamp themselves upon the mind and memory. Every tableau has in it a distinct French lesson. The vowel sounds, the consonants, the accents, the various peculiarities of inflection and grammatical construction, are correctly learned almost without effort. We cordially commend this book to teachers of French, and for general use in schools. M. Gaillard's method is indorsed by the highest educational authorities.

The second volume of "*Medical and Surgical Memoirs*,"† by Dr. Joseph Jones, of New Orleans, is a treatise on fevers, and is complete in itself, the purchaser not being obliged to commit himself to take any of the past or succeeding volumes. Dr. Jones is exceedingly well qualified to write such a work, having practiced medicine in New Orleans for the past thirty years, and having been President of the Louisiana State Board of Health during four years of that time (1880 to 1884). He has himself suffered from a severe attack of yellow fever, and should, therefore, be able to write feelingly on that subject.

The arrangement of matter is a little confusing, as the author's idea seems to have been more to draw comparisons between the symptoms and pathology of the different fevers than to give descriptions of them. It would, consequently, not come into everyday use with the general practitioner; but, as a book of reference and study in obscure and doubtful cases, it would certainly be a most valuable addition to any medical library. There are many plates, showing the gross and microscopic changes of the different organs and tissues in disease.

The history and description of leprosy in Louisiana is intensely interesting, not only to the physician, but also to the laity. There are also very entertaining articles on Albinism and Elephantiasis. Altogether the book shows an enormous amount of research and labor, and is most comprehensive, containing much that is of value and interest to every practicing physician. It might, however, with advantage have been somewhat smaller, as it contains a great deal of detail, and many digressions from the subjects treated of, which are not of any special use to the busy practitioner, but are, on the contrary, in the way of a rapid understanding of that which is useful and valuable.

The story told by Mark Rutherford and edited by his friend ‡ reminds us of the parson who said that he always felt safe when he had a whole chapter or a psalm for a text, because, if he was persecuted in one verse he could then flee to

* "*French for Young Folks*." Comprising a phonic treatise on pronunciation; graphic, pictorial and progressive outlines, with questions, to be used as materials for reading, vocabulary, conversation, and composition. Fully illustrated. By J. D. Gaillard, officer d'Académie, etc., and Madame Emilia Gaillard.—Edgar Werner.

† "*Medical and Surgical Memoirs*." Vol. 1. *Fevers*. By Joseph Jones, M. D., New Orleans. Author's edition.

‡ "*The Revolution in Tanner's Lane*." By Mark Rutherford. Edited by his friend Reuben Shapcott.—G. P. Putnam's Sons.

another. The story begins in the year 1814 and ends somewhere in the forties. At least half a dozen heroes and heroines appear and disappear, and there is not even the suspicion of a plot. Where Tanner's Lane is and what the revolution was we do not discover till the story is almost ended, and instead of a thrilling political episode, as the first chapters seem to promise, the reader finds himself interested in the affairs of an obscure dissenting congregation in an English country town. But in spite of all these drawbacks "*The Revolution in Tanner's Lane*" is an interesting book. It gives in a rambling sort of way a very good idea of certain phases of English life during the first half of the century, when radicalism was a crime and the masses of the people were slowly working out their independence and political rights. The sketch of the dissenting minister and his congregation in Cowfold, and of their local surroundings, is very good, and could not be drawn from the imagination only. The times, however, are changing, and the particular types of men and women here pictured are growing scarcer every year as civilization blends classes together.

Dr. W. A. Hammond's last novel, "*On the Susquehanna*,"* is a well written story of American life in the iron districts. A young woman of twenty-five becomes, by the death of her father, the proprietor of some extensive iron works, and also the possessor of a painful family secret, which reflects upon her parentage. She considers it her duty to endeavor to unravel a certain mystery which accompanies this secret, though by so doing she expects to bring a species of humiliation and disgrace upon herself. In the meantime, she finds herself in constant communication with the superintendent of the works, a manly fellow, well educated, and of great executive ability. They love each other, but each is careful not to allow the other to suspect the attachment. The interest of the story lies in the gradual unfolding of the family mystery, as well as of the love affair, in the course of which we are introduced to a variety of characters, including some designing rascals, who work upon the susceptibilities of the lady for their selfish interests. There are opportunities here for sketches of mountain scenery, and for narratives of contests with desperate people in lonesome regions, and of fine amateur detective work, which give zest and excitement to the book, and illustrate the old adage about the course of true love. The single criticism we would make is that the position of this young lady at the iron works, surrounded by a society almost exclusively of men, and with apparently so light an acquaintance with the outside world, is rather anomalous. An American girl of wealth and culture, without a galaxy of companions of her own sex, is a rarity. We miss the silver laughter and innocent mirth of maidens, and find everything unusually prim and serious in the household of this young iron queen. At least one or two companions of her own age and sex would have given a naturalness to the book, which we think is lacking in this respect.

Under the title of "*The Van Gelder Papers*,"† a number of quaint, old-fashioned stories have been strung together, having all the appearance of genuineness, the scenes of which are laid either on Long Island or on the banks of the Hudson. The compiler, in a prefatory note, states that these stories are a portion of the papers of a deceased friend, who spent his time in hunting up information about past events and traditions of the earlier settlers on Long Island. They have the flavor of antiquity about them, and will serve as a reminder of the old worthies who helped, by their industrious toil, to lay a good foundation for our modern improvement and cultivation.

* "*On the Susquehanna*." A novel. By William A. Hammond.—D. Appleton & Co.

† "*The Van Gelder Papers, and other sketches*." Edited by J. T. L.—G. P. Putnam's Sons.